Earlier also in 2002, an Inter-Ministerial Fact Finding Committee (FFC) consisting of two senior officers from Department of Disinvestment and Ministry of Labour and two members from Labour Organisations was constituted by the Ministry of Labour to assess whether lay off/retrenchment had been resorted to by the new management and also whether there were any deviation from Shareholders' Agreement (SHA) signed with the Government in respect of clauses dealing with labour issues.

The FFC which submitted its report in September, 2004, did not find any instance of lay off in BALCO post disinvestment. The FFC also could not find any instance of departure from the terms of the Transaction Agreement other than the payment of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) dues in five instalments. BALCO had informed that deferred payment in instalments was considered with the consent of individual VRS optees.

Fresh survey backwardness in Muslim dominated districts

†670. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to conduct a new survey to get information about social, economic and educational backwardness among Muslims in 90 Muslim-dominated districts in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the reasons to conduct such a new survey; and

(d) the name of the agency to which the responsibility of this survey has been assigned and by when the report is likely to be received in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (d) The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) has been entrusted the task of conducting a baseline survey, to identify the development deficits, in 90 minority concentration districts for implementation of a multi-sectoral development programme in these districts. The Council has sought six months time for conducting the baseline survey in a district.

Recruitment of minority community candidates

671. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new fifteen point programme for minority (muslim's) also included to consider minority community candidates, specially for recruitment in the State and Central Government services as well as while recruiting the police personnel in the States, so as to ensure welfare of the minority community;

(b) if so, whether such orders have been issued to the State Governments;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of minority community candidates recruited in Railways, State Police, Central Police Forces, nationalized banks and public sector enterprises as per the above guidelines?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities provides for giving special consideration to minorities in recruitment of police personnel, Central Police forces, Railways, nationalized banks and public sector enterprises. In pursuance of this, the Department of Personnel & Training has issued an Office Memorandum on 8th January, 2007. States have been advised suitably.

(d) As per available information from 1st April, 2007 to 17th September, 2007, Central Para Military Forces recruited 1976 personnel from the minorities.

Reservation for Dalit-Christians

672. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the socio-economic conditions of the Dalit-Christians is as bad as the other SC/ST categories;

(b) whether there is a demand for their inclusion in the reserved category;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider their inclusion too in the reserved category;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (e) One of the terms of reference of the National Commission for Religious & Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM) was to suggest the criteria for identification of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities and to recommend measures for their welfare, including reservation, in education and Government employment.

The NCRLM was also asked to give it's recommendations on the issues raised in Writ Petition Nos. 180/04 and 94/05 filed in the Supreme Court and in certain High Courts relating to para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, in the context of ceiling of 50% reservation, as also the modalities of inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes.

The NCRLM submitted its report in May, 2007. The recommendations of NCRLM are under consideration of Government.

Committee on functioning of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation

673. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert Committee has been set up recently by Government to review the functioning of the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC);

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations taken up for implementation and the status of their implementation, issue-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay in submitting the report?